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Robotic and Virtual Slide Pathology

Telepathology is the practice of digitizing histological or macroscopic images for transmission along telecommunication pathways for diagnosis, consultation or continuing medical education. Previous studies have addressed static vs. dynamic imaging in several specimen types with a wide variety of systems and communication pathways. The basic system is comprised of an automated microscope mounted with a CCD camera, image grabber, a desktop computer running the Windows NT operating system, an Internet communications link between sending and receiving sites and a workstation at the receiving site equipped with a high-quality monitor to view images.

Objectives of this project are to:

- Determine the technical, clinical, and operational requirements of the telepathology system for deployment in a TRICARE military medical environment.
- Provide an objective assessment of the quality of microscopic pathologic evaluations transferred via telepathology versus conventional delivery systems.
- Examine the efficacy of telepathology in improving pathology services.
- Assess the cost-effectiveness of providing telepathology services in the military health care delivery system.
- Establish the minimum essential requirements for quality, cost-effective pathologic consultation via telepathology.

The long-term goals of this telepathology project will be to facilitate integrated health care delivery in the TRICARE region by providing efficient, accessible, and cost-effective specialty-level evaluation, diagnosis, research, education, and information for military patients and health care providers.

Points of Contact:

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